



# *Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ASMFC Board Approves Emergency Action for Scup Winter II Period & Black Sea Bass Fourth Quarter Fisheries** *States to Hold Public Hearings Within 30 Days*

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission last week approved, through Emergency Actions, modifications to the scup winter II period and black sea bass fourth quarter fisheries. These Emergency Actions establish a trigger and modified daily possession limit for the commercial scup fishery (November 1 through December 31, 2001), and new possession limits for the commercial black sea bass fishery (October 1 through December 31, 2001). These actions were taken by the Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board in consultation with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council).

#### **Scup**

The Emergency Action for Scup maintains an initial 2,000-pound daily possession limit and establishes a landings trigger limit of 70 percent, which once met would reduce possession limits to 500 pounds daily. The use of triggers and reduced possession limits are intended to allow fishermen to harvest scup throughout the entire quota period. The quota for the winter II period is 708,469 pounds.

#### **Black Sea Bass**

The Emergency Action for Black Sea Bass provides states with the option of establishing either a 2,000-pound weekly or 300-pound daily possession limit for black sea bass from October 1 through December 31, 2001. This option is intended to allow fishery managers to better meet the needs of various commercial fishing sectors. The quota for the fourth quarter is 516,939 pounds.

Scup and black sea bass are jointly managed by the Commission and the Council. These Emergency Actions supplement their ongoing joint management efforts with the intent of further improving cooperative state/federal management of scup and black sea bass fisheries. The commercial scup fishery is managed through a quota that is divided among three periods – Winter I (January – April), Summer (May – October), and Winter II (November – December). The commercial black sea bass fishery is managed through a quota that is divided among four periods – Quarter I (January – March), Quarter II (April – June), Quarter III (July – September), and Quarter IV (October – December). Commercial landings for both species are monitored weekly to ensure the timely closure of the fisheries once the quota for each period is landed. Both plans set out a series of trip limits that are designed to extend the quota throughout the quota period, thereby, maximizing the benefits of the available quota.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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According to the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program Charter, states are required to hold at least four public hearings on the Emergency Actions. Information on those public hearings will be released once they become available. Copies of the Emergency Actions will be available August 17, 2001 and can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's website at <http://www.asafc.org>. For more information please contact Michael Lewis, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at [tberger@asafc.org](mailto:tberger@asafc.org) or fax to (202) 289-6051.